



State of Idaho  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE**  
Division of Medicaid

DIRK KEMPTHORNE  
GOVERNOR  
KARL B. KURTZ  
DIRECTOR  
JOSEPH R. BRUNSON  
ADMINISTRATOR

Bureau of Facility Standards

3380 Americana Terrace  
Suite 260  
Boise, ID 83720-0036  
(208) 334-6626  
Fax (208) 364-1888

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**INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2002-3**

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**DATE:** March 11, 2002

**TO:** ALL CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS

**FROM:** DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief  
Bureau of Facility Standards

**SUBJECT:** COMPLETION OF MINIMUM DATA SET (MDS)  
IN CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITAL (CAHs) – S&C 02-17

The purpose of this letter is to notify Critical Access Hospitals of a change in enforcing the Minimum Data Set (MDS) requirement for CAHs with swing-beds.

The regulations at 42 CFR, section 485.645 provide that in order for a CAH to use its beds to provide post-hospital skilled nursing facility (SNF) care, it must be in “substantial compliance” with nine SNF requirements contained in 42 CFR, section 483, subpart B. Included in those regulations are requirements for CAHs to complete the full MDS as part of their assessment of patients in CAH swing-beds. Effective immediately, CAHs will not be required to use the MDS instrument for swing-bed patient assessments. CAHs will, however, still be required to complete and document an assessment and comprehensive care plan based on that assessment for each patient admitted to swing-bed status.

Should you have any questions, please contact Sylvia Creswell, Supervisor of Non Long Term Care at 208/334-6626.

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DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief  
Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/nah  
Enclosure  
cc: Idaho Hospital Association